

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application identified in caption in light of the following remarks, pursuant to and consistent with 37 C.F.R. § 1.114, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 2 are all the claims pending in the application.

II. Response to Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1 and 2 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,458,192 to Tsujio. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection for the same reasons set forth in the Amendment filed December 19, 2007, and the following additional reasons.

Applicants submit herewith additional experimental data in the form of a Declaration Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.132 by Mr. Yoshito Tsumuraya, the sole inventor of the present application. The Declaration demonstrates that the presently claimed invention can provide unexpected results, thereby further supporting the patentability of the claims.

Specifically, in the Declaration, Comparative Examples 8 and 9 were prepared according to the formulae in Table 1 therein. Comparative Examples 8 and 9 contained rhamsan gum, which is the polysaccharide used in Tsujio (chemical formula 1 therein). Comparative Examples 8 and 9 were evaluated in the same manner as described in Examples of the specification and the results are summarized in Table 2 in the Declaration. These results show that Comparative Example 8 is inferior in terms of writing property at 5°C and ink continuous flowability, and that Comparative Example 9 is inferior in terms of writing property at 50°C and 5°C, compared to Examples 1-4 described in Table 3 of the specification.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that the present claims are not obvious over Tsujio and thus the rejection should be withdrawn.


II. Conclusion

From the foregoing, further and favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance is believed to be next in order and such action is earnestly solicited. If there are any questions concerning this paper or the application in general, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (202) 452-7932 at her earliest convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

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